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PENRITH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and

**PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
AND SURVEYOR**

FOR THE YEAR

1959





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MANSION HOUSE,
PENRITH,
July, 1960.

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Penrith Rural District Council.*

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Shepherd and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Annual Report on the health of the Community for the year 1959.

The population as given by the Registrar General was 11,480, exactly the same as for the previous year.

The corrected Birth rate was 19.7 per 1,000 of the population, being a decided rise over the rate of 17.7 recorded in 1958, and compares with a rate of 16.5 for England and Wales.

The corrected Death rate was 10.9 per 1,000 of population as compared with 11.5 in 1958. The England and Wales rate was 11.6.

As there were no recorded deaths of infants under one year of age the Infantile Mortality rate was nil. In 1958 the rate was 25.4 per 1,000 live births representing five deaths. The England and Wales figure for 1959 was 22.0 per 1,000 live births.

I think this is the first time that a nil Infantile Mortality rate has been recorded in the Rural area.

Infectious disease notifications totalled 153 in contrast to the very low figure of 18 recorded in 1958. Of this total, 105 were due to measles notifications.

In my 1958 report I stated that at long last a start had been made on the High and Low Hesket sewerage and water schemes, and expressed the hope that both would be in operation before the end of 1959. While the Dale pumping scheme, augmenting water supplies to the Hesket area, did come into operation in September, 1959, I regret to say that the sewerage scheme was not finished before the end of 1959, but at the time of writing this report is nearing completion.

Fuller details of water and sewerage plans for the area are given by Mr. Sedgwick, the Surveyor, in his report, as also are details of Housing matters by Mr. Burne your Architect and Housing Officer.

In conclusion I would express my thanks to all members of the Council for their continuing encouragement and interest, and to all members of the Council Staff in the Health and other Departments for their help and loyal support.

I am, Mrs. Shepherd and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

K. J. THOMSON,

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area of District (in acres)	181,531
Number of Inhabited Houses	3,568
Rateable Value	£98,998
Sum representated by a Penny Rate ..	£390 2s. 8d.
Registrar General's estimate of the population ..	11,480

Population.

The Registrar General's estimate of the population at mid year 1959 was 11,480, being the same as the previous year. From the appropriate table it will be noted that, apart from the 1949 figure of 11,610, the Rural population has been in the region of 11,500 for the past 13 years.

Dairy farming and Agriculture continue to be the main industries of the district with Lime Works, Paper Mills, and Quarries as additional sources of employment. There is also a Caravan building factory in the area.

There was practically no unemployment in the district and to my knowledge no new industry was introduced during the year.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Births	Males	Females	Total	
(a) Live Births:—				
Legitimate	116	97	213	
Illegitimate	3	4	7	
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	
	119	101	220	
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	
Birth Rate per 1,000 of population ..				19.2
Birth Rate corrected by comparability factor				19.7
(b) Still Births:—				
Legitimate	2	—	2	
Illegitimate	—	—	—	
			<hr/>	
			2	
			<hr/>	
Rate per 1,000 total births (live and still)				9.0

Deaths	Males	Females	Total	
Deaths, all ages ..	61	65	126	
Death Rate per 1,000 of population	10.9
Death Rate corrected by comparability factor	10.9
Deaths from Puerperal Causes..	Nil
Maternal Mortality Rate	Nil
Death Rate of Infants under one year:—				
All Infants per 1,000 births	Nil
Deaths from:—				
Cancer	23
Measles	Nil
Whooping Cough	Nil
Diarrhoea (under two years of age)	Nil

Table showing the Vital Statistics for England and Wales and certain groups in the County of Cumberland for 1959:—

	Birth Rate	Crude Death Rate	Infantile Mortality Rate
England and Wales	16.5	11.6	22.0
Administrative County of Cumberland ..	17.7	11.9	21.1
Urban Districts of Cumberland (including Boroughs of Workington and Whitehaven)	17.9	12.6	23.2
Rural Districts of Cumberland	17.6	11.4	20.0
Rural District of Penrith (crude rate) ..	19.2	10.9	Nil
Corrected by Comparability factor ..	19.7	10.9	Nil

NOTE.—The corrected rates should be used for comparison with other areas.

Infantile Mortality.

It is pleasing to report that there were no deaths of Infants under one year of age as against five in 1958. So far as records are available this would appear to be the first time that this has occurred.

PENRITH RURAL DISTRICT RATES, 1947-1959.

Year	Population	Death Rate	Birth Rate	Total Infantile Deaths	Infantile Mortality Rate	England & Wales Infantile Mortality Rate
1947	11,580	12.3	20.2	6	25.6	41.4
1948	11,550	11.0	17.8	9	43.7	34.0
1949	11,610	11.3	17.4	5	19.8	32.0
1950	11,450	10.0	16.6	2	11.3	29.8
1951	11,500	12.4	16.9	5	27.5	29.6
1952	11,510	10.3	19.3	8	36.0	27.6
1953	11,450	10.1	16.4	6	31.9	26.8
1954	11,490	10.8	15.5	3	17.4	25.5
1955	11,500	12.3	16.2	4	22.3	24.9
1956	11,480	10.5	17.5	6	30.7	23.8
1957	11,500	11.8	15.6	4	22.9	23.0
1958	11,480	11.5	17.7	5	25.4	22.5
1959	11,480	10.9	19.7	Nil	Nil	22.0

Maternal Mortality.

There were no deaths from Puerperal or Maternal causes, this being the sixteenth successive year without such a death.

Cancer Mortality.

According to the Registrar General's returns there were 23 cancer deaths, 2 more than in 1958. This gives a rate of 2.0 per 1,000 of the population and equals 18.2% of all deaths. In 1958 and 1957 the corresponding figures were 1.8 per 1,000 of population and 15.9%, and 1.2 per 1,000 of population and 10.3% respectively. It will be noted therefore, that in common with the Country generally, there has been an upward trend in the Rural area, and indeed the rates for the area in 1959 are practically the same as for England and Wales.

The average age at death for male cancer cases was 68 years, while that of females was 70.5 years.

Location of Disease				Males	Females
Oesophagus	..	..	..	1	—
Stomach	..	..	..	2	1
Bowel	..	..	..	1	1
Lungs and Bronchus	..	..	..	1	2
Prostate	..	..	..	1	—
Bladder	..	..	..	1	1
Breast	..	..	..	—	3
Uterus	..	..	..	—	2
Ovary	..	..	..	—	1
Other Sites	..	..	..	1	4
Total				8	15

It is rather remarkable to report that whereas the ratio of male to female cancer deaths was two to one in 1958—14 males and 7 females, this figure was exactly reversed in 1959 when there were 8 male and 15 female cancer deaths.

No full explanation can be given for this complete change round but it must be remembered that marked fluctuations can be expected when dealing with such small numbers as appertain to the Rural area.

Cancer of the lungs caused three deaths, one less than in 1958, and two of these occurred in women whereas all four deaths in 1958 occurred in men. On investigation it was found that the man and one woman were heavy cigarette smokers.

In my 1958 report I stated that the Medical Research Council had carried out extensive and detailed investigations into the possible causes of the marked increase in lung cancer deaths which had occurred in this Country over the past 20—30 years. After sifting all evidence they concluded that a large proportion of the increase was due to tobacco smoking, especially heavy cigarette smoking.

In 1959 in England and Wales there were 97,116 deaths from all forms of Cancer, 51,783 being males and 45,333 females, a total increase of 1,317 over the 1958 figure. Of this total 18,181 male deaths and 2,882 female deaths (a total of 21,063) were due to Cancer of the Lungs. In other words 21.6% of all Cancer deaths were due to Cancer of the Lungs and, so far as males were concerned, 35.1% of all Cancer deaths were due to Lung Cancer, while only 6.3% of female Cancer deaths were due to this cause.

Deaths from All Causes.

The total deaths recorded in 1959 was 126, being six less than in 1958, giving a crude death rate of 10.9 per 1,000 of the population. As the Comparability factor for correction of death rate remained at one, the corrected rate is the same as the crude rate.

The rate of 10.9 compares favourably with the England and Wales figure of 11.6 and is well below the 1958 rate of 11.5.

DISEASES OF THE HEART AND CIRCULATORY SYSTEM accounted for 56 deaths, equal to 44% of all deaths, and shows a rise over the figures of 53 and 40% recorded in 1958.

VASCULAR LESIONS OF THE NERVOUS SYSTEM, *i.e.* Cerebral Haemorrhage and Thrombosis accounted for 21 deaths, equivalent to 16.6% of all deaths. This figure is practically the same as for 1958 and is below the National rate.

DEATHS FROM CANCER, as already indicated, totalled 23, representing 18.2% of all deaths and equal to a rate of 2.0 per 1,000 of the population. These figures show an increase over previous years and are more or less the same as for England and Wales.

DISEASE OF THE RESPIRATORY SYSTEM, excluding Tuberculosis, caused 7 deaths, an increase of 2 over 1958 and equal to 5.5% of all deaths.

MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENTS. It is gratifying to report that there were no such recorded deaths in 1959, whereas there were 6 in 1958.

ALL OTHER ACCIDENT DEATHS totalled 3, compared with 6 in 1958.

Causes of Death as given by the Registrar General, 1959.

						Males	Females	Total
1.	Tuberculosis (Respiratory)	..	..	..	..	1	—	1
2.	Tuberculosis (Other)	..	..	..	..	—	—	—
3.	Syphilitic Disease	..	..	..	..	—	—	—
4.	Diphtheria	..	..	..	..	—	—	—
5.	Whooping Cough	..	..	..	..	—	—	—
6.	Meningococcal Infections	..	..	..	..	—	—	—
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	..	..	..	..	—	—	—
8.	Measles	..	..	..	..	—	—	—
9.	Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	..	..	..	..	—	—	—
10.	Malignant Neoplasm—Stomach	..	..	..	..	2	1	3
11.	Malignant Neoplasm—Lung, Bronchus	..	..	..	..	1	2	3
12.	Malignant Neoplasm—Breast	..	..	..	..	—	3	3
13.	Malignant Neoplasm—Uterus	..	..	..	..	—	2	2
14.	Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	..	..	..	..	4	7	11
15.	Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	..	..	..	..	1	—	1
16.	Diabetes	..	..	..	..	—	1	1
17.	Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	..	..	..	..	8	13	21
18.	Coronary Disease—Angina	..	..	..	..	8	10	18
19.	Hypertension with Heart Disease	..	..	..	..	—	4	4
20.	Other Heart Diseases	..	..	..	..	17	10	27
21.	Other Circulatory Diseases	..	..	..	..	4	3	7
22.	Influenza	..	..	..	..	2	1	3
23.	Pneumonia	..	..	..	..	1	—	1
24.	Bronchitis	..	..	..	..	3	1	4
25.	Other Diseases of Respiratory System	..	..	..	..	1	1	2
26.	Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	..	..	..	..	2	1	3
27.	Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	..	..	..	..	—	—	—
28.	Nephritis and Nephrosis	..	..	..	..	—	—	—
29.	Hyperplasia of Prostate	..	..	..	..	1	—	1
30.	Pregnancy, Childbirth and Abortion	..	..	..	..	—	—	—
31.	Congenital Malformations	..	..	..	..	—	—	—
32.	Other Defined and Ill-defined Diseases	..	..	..	..	3	4	7
33.	Motor Vehicle Accidents	..	..	..	..	—	—	—
34.	All Other Accidents	..	..	..	..	2	1	3
35.	Suicide	..	..	..	..	—	—	—
36.	Homicide and Operations of War	..	..	..	..	—	—	—
All Causes						61	65	126

Age Group at Death of All Cases, 1959.

Age Group	Under 1 year	1 to 4	5 to 9	10 to 14	15 to 19	20 to 24	25 to 29	30 to 34	35 to 39	40 to 44	45 to 49	50 to 54	55 to 59	60 to 64	65 to 69	70 to 74	75 to 79	80 and over	Total
Males	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	3	5	6	9	9	12	12	61
Females	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	3	1	2	4	5	10	17	21	65
Total	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	3	6	4	7	10	14	19	29	33	126

NOTE:—75% of total deaths occurred in age groups of 65 years and over.

49% of total deaths occurred in age groups of 75 years and over.

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

(i) **Public Health Department Staff.**

K. J. Thomson, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., L.M., Part time Medical Officer of Health.

J. A. Sedgwick, A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A., Surveyor and Chief Public Health Officer.

E. A. Burne, M.Ins.R.A., Architect and Housing Officer.

D. Wood, Assistant in Housing Department.

H. Baildon, General Assistant in Health Department.

D. W. Hammersley, General Assistant in Health Department.

Miss I. Coulston, Clerk in Public Health Department.

(ii) **Laboratory Facilities.**

All facilities are provided by the Public Health Laboratory Service at the Cumberland Infirmary.

Dr. J. S. Faulds is the Consultant Pathologist, while Dr. D. G. Davies is in charge of all Bacteriological work.

I would again record my grateful thanks to all concerned for the excellent co-operation and help so willingly given during the year.

(iii) **Ambulance Facilities.**

The County Council, as the Local Health Authority, provides and administers all Ambulance Services.

Two Ambulances are based on Penrith and one at Keswick which serves the Threlkeld area. In addition "Sitting Case" cars are available throughout the district.

(iv) **Nursing in the Home.**

The County Council provides all the necessary services including District Nurses, Midwives, Health Visitors and Home Helps. There are 25 Home Helps on the Register, covering both Urban and Rural districts, but only 10 of these are for the Rural area, an increase of 1 over 1958.

Notification of Infectious Diseases—1959 in Age Groups.

Diseases	Ages														T	AH	D
	-1	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	20-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-			
Scarlet Fever ..	-	-	-	3	1	14	3	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	23	-	-
Whooping Cough ..	-	-	-	1	1	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	-
Measles ..	3	8	4	15	11	55	8	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	105	-	-
Primary or Influenzal Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	2	5	-	-
Dysentery Sonne ..	-	1	-	1	1	2	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	7	-	-
Paratyphoid Fever ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-
Meningococcal Meningitis ..	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-
Food Poisoning ..	-	-	1	-	-	-	2	-	-	2	1	-	-	-	6	-	-
TOTALS ..	4	9	5	20	14	74	14	1	1	3	4	2	-	2	153	1	-

Key:—
T — Total
AH — Admitted to Hospital
D — Deaths

Notification of Infectious Diseases—1943 to 1959.

	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959
Scarlet Fever	24	26	15	5	3	23	18	17	16	21	17	10	6	-	3	2	23
Diphtheria	2	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery Sonne	2	11	3	8	-	-	1	40	5	-	-	-	18	19	1	-	7
Puerperal Pyrexia	4	2	-	1	1	-	1	-	1	3	1	-	1	1	-	-	-
Primary or Influenzal Pneumonia 11	16	6	3	3	5	10	21	16	12	9	17	8	7	25	23	12	5
Erysipelas	3	4	5	2	1	1	1	2	3	1	1	1	-	3	-	2	-
Meningococcal Meningitis	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	-	-	1	12
Measles	115	14	233	4	126	111	50	85	184	18	207	137	161	1	286	-	105
Whooping Cough	23	5	34	50	22	33	77	87	96	52	10	27	40	14	27	1	5
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-	-	3	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	1	1	5	2	4	-	1	1	2	-	-	-	8	-	-
Encephalitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Food Poisoning	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	1	-	6
Paratyphoid Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
TOTALS ..	184	82	300	74	165	180	173	247	319	108	256	183	234	71	349	18	153

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Notifications of Infectious Diseases totalled 153 compared with the very low figure of 18 in 1958 and the high figure of 349 in 1957. As has been pointed out in previous reports the marked fluctuation in total notifications is due entirely to the varying incidence of Measles from year to year. Measles epidemics tend to occur in cycles every 2-3 years.

Measles.

A total of 105 cases was notified compared with none in 1958 and 286 in 1957. Towards the latter part of 1959 there was a considerable increase in Measles incidence in the Country generally. This was to be expected in view of the low incidence during the previous year. No case was admitted to Hospital and there were no deaths.

Whooping Cough.

Five cases were notified, all in young children. As mentioned in my 1958 report, undoubtedly many mild cases occur in the district but because no Doctor is called in no notification is made. During the year 147 babies, mostly under 1 year of age, were vaccinated against this disease. While the protection thus given is not nearly so complete as in the case of Diphtheria, nevertheless, it is well worth while in that if infection does occur the illness is much less severe and less likely to prove fatal.

Scarlet Fever.

Twenty-three cases were notified compared with two in 1958. Eighteen of the cases were under 10 years of age and four were in the pre-school age group; no case was seriously ill and all were treated at home. Apart from February and August one or more cases occurred in each month of the year and they were scattered over the whole area.

In the Plumpton—Catterlen area, however, during the latter part of September and October, 6 cases occurred and most of these attended the same school. As a result of investigations I found that the cook at this school might have been the common link in that she suffered from a slight sore throat over a period of time but was never off work. A swab of her throat was taken and showed the presence of the haemolytic streptococcus, the casual organism of Scarlet Fever and Streptococcal sore throats. She was immediately put off work and in consultation with her own doctor given intramuscular penicillin injections. This quickly cleared the infection and she was allowed to return to work after negative swabs had been obtained.

No further cases occurred in the school after this was done.

Primary or Influenzal Pneumonia.

Five cases were notified, all being adults, and there was one death.

For the second consecutive winter Influenza was prevalent in the Country, and it will be noted that three of the Pneumonia cases were Influenzal in origin.

The Penrith Rural District was affected, in common with the rest of the Country, but not nearly to the same extent as experienced in the Influenzal epidemic of 1957. There were three recorded deaths from Influenza.

Dysentery.

Seven cases were notified, all being due to the Sonnei type of organism, the type most commonly found in this country.

The first case occurred in January, just after the Christmas holidays, and related to a girl attending a private school in the district as a day pupil. She was not seriously ill, but the case gave rise to a considerable amount of trouble in the following up of her contacts. Her two sisters and brother, who had been close contacts, attended different private schools in England and Scotland and this of course necessitated contacting the appropriate Medical Authorities; in addition it was necessary to follow up the contacts in the school she herself attended where there were three suspicious cases, but fortunately all were found to be clear of infection.

The second case occurred early in May and related to a girl of 7 years who eventually infected her mother, two brothers and sister and who were all duly notified. This family was kept under supervision for 6 weeks until all were bacteriologically clear of infection. The source of this infection was never found despite intensive investigation.

The seventh case was notified towards the end of May and concerned a girl of 15 years who attended school in Carlisle. She was a mild case from the beginning, but again very strict supervision was required of the family as the father and the mother were employed in a large milk producing farm where the father was the manager and the mother was employed in the dairy. It was necessary, therefore, to exclude them from work until both were known to be non-infected.

This girl was undoubtedly infected in a different part of the county, the probable source of infection being traced to a relative living in an adjacent rural district.

Paratyphoid Fever.

One case was notified of this condition and despite an extensive search for the origin of the infection this was never found. The patient had been ill for some time before the diagnosis was made, and she was removed immediately to hospital where she recovered after appropriate treatment. A nearby refuse tip came under suspicion, but samples of flies, refuse, sewage, water and food were all completely negative. The patient had been away for a day trip to the North East where she had partaken of a meal but so far as was known was not in contact with any case, although on enquiry there were cases of Paratyphoid in the district concerned. A very close supervision was maintained over a considerable period of the five families living nearby this case and I am glad to say no secondary cases occurred in these families.

Meningococcal Meningitis.

One case was notified and affected a baby boy aged 7 months. He was admitted to hospital where the diagnosis was verified bacteriologically. Although he had a rather stormy passage he eventually recovered completely and went home after 4 weeks stay in hospital.

Food Poisoning.

Six cases were originally notified of this condition, but in one case the diagnosis was not confirmed.

All the verified cases were due to the *Salmonella typhimurium* organism.

In addition to the notified cases, secondary cases occurred in two of the infected households.

The first notified case occurred in May in a boy aged 2 years who subsequently infected his mother. Mother and son had fairly severe attacks but responded quite well to treatment and were both clear after 5 weeks supervision.

The third case was notified in June and concerned a boy aged 10 years who lived nearby the above two cases, and it was reasonable to suppose that he had been infected from the first household. No history of contact could be obtained however, and as a result of further investigation it would seem that this third case had in fact been infected from a school in Penrith, where there was an outbreak of this infection at the material time. This boy, although only mildly affected clinically, was $2\frac{1}{2}$ months under supervision before being considered clear of infection.

The fourth case notified 2 days later than above case occurred in a boy aged 12 years who attended the same school. He infected a younger brother and sister, but again none of these cases was seriously ill. The family was kept under supervision from the middle of June until the beginning of September when all were considered free of infection.

The fifth case related to another school boy who also attended the school in Penrith but lived in a different part of the Rural Area to the above cases. He was quite acutely ill in the beginning but recovered comparatively quickly after appropriate treatment. His mother, who worked as a cook in one of the Rural Schools, was also found to be infected, although clinically free of symptoms. She was excluded from work until three negative stools were obtained.

In all these cases no actual food material was found to be the source of infection. As a result of investigation by Dr. Jones, Medical Officer of Health for Penrith Urban Council, one of the kitchen staff in the canteen of the School in Penrith mentioned above was found to be a carrier of the infection and was immediately suspended from work until considered clear.

Diphtheria.

For the fifteenth consecutive year no case of Diphtheria has occurred in the district and it is now fourteen years since a death was recorded from this disease.

In the Country generally, however, there was again an increase in notifications. In 1957 there were 37 verified notifications increasing to 79 in 1958, and this figure rose to 271 in 1959 (not all verified).

There has been, therefore, a definite increase of Diphtheria cases over the past two years due undoubtedly to a decrease in the general immunisation rate among susceptible children.

The Chief Medical Officer of Health for England and Wales has stated "it is quite clear that there is still a danger that this disease could again become a serious problem and that efforts to maintain a high level of immunisation of children cannot be relaxed".

During the year the following number of children were immunised in the Penrith Rural District:—

Primary Immunisation, all ages	..	150
Reinforcement or Booster Injections	..	55

Unfortunately these figures are much less than in previous years due partly to the concentration on Poliomyelitis vaccination.

DIPHTHERIA NOTIFICATIONS AND DEATHS, 1944-1959.

Year	ENGLAND & WALES		PENRITH RURAL DISTRICT	
	Notifications	Deaths	Notifications	Deaths
1944	23,199	934	4	—
1945	18,596	722	—	—
1946	11,986	472	—	—
1947	5,609	244	—	—
1948	3,575	156	—	—
1949	1,890	84	—	—
1950	962	49	—	—
1951	664	33	—	—
1952	376	32	—	—
1953	266	23	—	—
1954	173	9	—	—
1955	155	13	—	—
1956	51	8	—	—
1957	37	6	—	—
1958	79	8	—	—
1959 (Provisional)	271	—	—	—

Acute Poliomyelitis and Vaccination.

No case has occurred in the area since 1957 when eight cases were notified.

Vaccination against Poliomyelitis continued throughout the year in schools and clinics as well as at special sessions and in general practitioners' surgeries.

The table which follows shows the position as at 31st December, 1959, and it must be appreciated that the figures given are inclusive, *i.e.* they indicate the total number vaccinated (according to year of birth) since the introduction of the Government Vaccination Scheme in 1956.

In the County as a whole 87% of all school children have been fully vaccinated, while 77% of the 1-4 year age group and 42% of those aged 16-26 years have also been protected. This is a higher rate of vaccination than in the Country generally.

In a letter sent to Health Authorities early in 1960 the Minister of Health has stated that by the end of 1959 registrations for vaccination had passed the 13 million mark and, while nearly all of these had received two injections, over 7.3 million had received three injections.

The Minister further stated that the provisional number of cases of paralytic poliomyelitis in 1959 had fallen below 1,000 for the first time for 13 years—the total being 914—and this, despite the very long hot summer. The provisional total number of paralytic and non-paralytic cases notified was 1,345 which was also the lowest since 1947 and compared with a total of 2,370 in 1958. Of greater significance, however, was the fact that deaths from poliomyelitis were the lowest since separate records started in 1911, there being only 66 (41 male and 25 female) for the whole country.

It would seem, therefore, that the vaccination Campaign initiated in 1956 has been well worth while and it must be maintained at all costs.

Poliomyelitis Vaccination.

THE POSITION AS AT 31/12/59.

Year of Birth	1942 to 1943																Hos. to E.M. AMB. G.P. Staff Total										
	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959
Had 2 Injections	33	82	44	12	16	12	18	14	5	11	10	15	11	11	8	21	22	497	71	-	1	5	919				
Had 3 Injections	-	36	118	172	146	139	151	170	137	153	164	144	152	115	108	124	73	188	52	-	1	-	2323				
Total Had 2 or 3 Injections	33	118	162	184	162	151	169	184	142	164	174	159	163	126	116	145	95	685	123	-	2	5	3242				

Smallpox.

No case or known contact occurred in the district during the year.

The number of vaccinations carried out showed a fall over the 1958 figures.

VACCINATION AGAINST SMALLPOX.

Age at Vaccination	-1	1	2-4	5-14	Over 15	Total
Primary	123	1	2	-	4	130
Re-vaccination ..	-	-	-	-	10	10

TUBERCULOSIS.

The following table gives particulars of new cases added to the Register during 1959:—

AGE.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
			Non-				Non-	
	Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
1—4 years ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5—14 years ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15—24 years ..	1	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
25—34 years ..	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
35—44 years ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45—54 years ..	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
55—64 years ..	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 and upwards	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS ..	2	3	-	1	1	-	-	-

Of the six cases added to the Register four related to inward transfer cases, *i.e.* cases previously notified elsewhere but who had moved into the area during the year. In all, eight cases were removed from the Register for the following reasons:—

Died	1
Left District	2
Recovered	5

According to the Registrar General's returns there was one male death from Pulmonary Tuberculosis, giving a death rate of 0.08 per 1,000 of the population compared with 0.17 in 1958.

The following table gives the number of cases on the Register at December, 1959:—

	Males	Females	Total
Pulmonary	25	23	48
Non-Pulmonary	3	7	10
	—	—	—
	28	30	58
	—	—	—

Prevention of Tuberculosis.

(a) MASS RADIOGRAPHY UNIT.

The Mass Radiography Unit under the direction of Dr. W. H. Morton paid the usual annual visits to Lazonby and Langwathby.

A total of 248 people attended these sessions and, although nearly double the 1958 figure, it is quite clear that the general public are not taking full advantage of this important service.

No new cases were discovered but 7 inactive cases and 10 other chest conditions were thus discovered and investigated.

In addition to above visits open sessions were held in Penrith when 2,067 of the public attended, and of this number many resided in the Rural area.

One active and 5 inactive cases were thus found together with 88 other chest or heart conditions including 2 malignant conditions.

It cannot be too strongly stressed how important a yearly visit to the Radiography Unit is in terms of peace of mind.

MASS RADIOGRAPHY UNIT SUMMARY OF FINDINGS, 1959.

	Total Number X-Rayed	New Active Cases	Inactive Cases	Other Abnormalities
Lazonby	122	—	1	5
Langwathby	126	—	1	5
Penrith	2,067	1	5	88
Total	2,315	1	7	98

(b) B.C.G. VACCINATION.

The B.C.G. Vaccination of the 13-14 years old age group of school children was continued during the year, and the following table shows the work done in this respect:—

Results of Mantoux Testing and B.C.G. Vaccination for Children in 13/14 Year Age Group (1945) in Penrith Rural Area, up to and including 31st December, 1959.

School	Number of children in 1945 group as shown on nominal roll	Number of consents given for B.C.G. Vaccination	Number of children Mantoux tested	Number tested but not read	Number found to be Mantoux Negative	Number given B.C.G. Vaccination	Number found to be Mantoux Positive	Number referred to Chest Clinic for Large Film and found to be Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Already known as contacts
Hutton Roof	1	1	1	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
Matterdale	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mungrisdale	1	1	1	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
Greystoke	1	1	1	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
Newbiggin	1	1	1	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
Penruddock	9	9	9	-	8	8	1	-	-	-
Stainton	5	5	5	-	5	5	-	-	-	-
Hutton Marr	2	2	2	-	2	2	-	-	-	-
Lazonby	26	25	24	-	23	23	1	1	-	-
Langwathby	6	5	5	-	4	4	1	1	-	-
Culgaith	5	5	5	-	4	4	1	1	-	-
Calthwaite	4	4	4	-	4	4	-	-	-	-
High Hesketh	8	4	4	-	3	3	1	-	-	-
Ivegill	4	4	4	-	2	2	2	-	-	-
Total	73	67	66	-	59	59	7 (10.6%)	3	-	-

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1951.

No action was necessary under Section 47 of above Acts but several elderly people were visited during the year and kept under supervision.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

I am obliged to Mr. J. A. Sedgwick, Surveyor and Public Health Inspector, for the following report:—

Sir,

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report for 1959 as follows:—

Water Supplies.

In previous reports I have given full details of the various sources of supply within the area, amounting to eighteen different Schemes, seventeen of which are direct from springs, and one from a river intake.

There is an additional source of supply which came into use during the year. This is The Dale pumping scheme which provides an augmentation of water into Ruckcroft Reservoir.

The work involved in this scheme consisted of the construction of Intake Works, involving the collection and retention of springs, the laying of some 200 yards of 9 in. gravity main from the spring intake chambers, the construction of a pumping station, with all the necessary electrical equipment, and the laying of some 1,500 yards of 5 in. pumping main from the pumping station to Ruckcroft Reservoir. This work was completed late in September and put into immediate use. The plant is capable of delivering 120,000 gallons per day into Ruckcroft Reservoir, the springs themselves yielding a much larger quantity of water.

General.

The exceptionally prolonged spell of dry weather, continuing into October, had the most serious effect upon the general supply position in the district, relying as it does upon

spring supplies to meet the daily demand. Towards the end of the summer, many of the springs were delivering less than their previous minimum dry weather yields, many natural sources of supply had completely dried up, and, in consequence, the demand from field troughs increased tremendously.

The first area to suffer from shortage was the high lying area supplied from Ruckcroft Reservoir, particularly High Hesket and Aiket Gate. In order to meet this deficiency, the supply area from Ruckcroft Reservoir was reduced and the area fed from the Hewer Hill Reservoir in the west was correspondingly enlarged. This alteration of supply areas is all very well as a short term policy, but, as the dry weather continued, so did shortages occur in other parts of the area, and, finally, there was a widespread intermittency of supply, places severely affected being Johnby, Greystoke, Newbiggin, Catterlen, Calthwaite and Newton Rigg.

In order to give a reasonable supply to the Cumberland and Westmorland Farm School at Newton Rigg, a temporary connection was made with the Penrith Urban District Council's supply, although the amount of water thus made available was still inadequate for their total needs.

Individual village supplies also began to give trouble, particularly at Threlkeld, Skirwith, Ousby and Renwick.

Eventually the situation became so bad that water had to be transported to High Hesket for domestic purposes, and it was fortunate that the Dale Pumping Scheme came into operation when it did, otherwise the supply situation would have become even more acute.

The average daily demand for water is estimated at some 750,000 gallons per day, the majority of which is needed for the agricultural industry. It is anticipated that the agricultural demand will continue to grow. This is a dairying area, yearly becoming more productive as farming becomes more intensive, with a corresponding greater demand for water. More consumers are installing electrical refrigerated cooling plants as they become aware that mains water, intermittent in supply, is not the best way to ensure proper cooling of milk, and this has resulted in a certain saving of water, particularly at times of peak demand. Again, the Council are doing all they can to encourage owners of property to modernise their dwellings by the installation of bathroom, water borne sanitation and the provision of hot and cold water supplies, and the accumulative effect of all this is to increase the demand, with no corresponding increase in supply.

It is interesting to note that practically every farm in the area has a metered supply of water, and as a result of regular inspections, avoidable wastage is kept at a minimum.

In my opinion, the time has arrived when the whole water supply position in the area should be reviewed and a long term policy for the augmentation of existing supplies formulated. Normally, there is an adequacy of water, but, because we are totally without sufficient storage accommodation, the shortest spell of dry weather results in demand exceeding supply in certain parts of the area.

Water Consumption.

From the following detailed table it will be seen that the majority of houses in the area enjoy the benefits of a piped supply of water from the Council's mains. So far as the other houses are concerned, most of them are supplied with water of reasonable good quality from private individual springs or from piped private estate supplies.

Out of a total number of 3,568 occupied houses, 3,277 have a supply from the Council.

Parish	Population	No of Inhabited Houses	No of Houses Supplied from Public Main.		Population Supplied.		Agricultural Meters Fixed
			Direct	Standpipe	Direct	Standpipe	
Ainstable ..	477	158	137	2	422	5	29
Castle Sowerby	402	106	104	—	394	—	54
Catterlen ..	219	95	95	—	219	—	15
Culgaith ..	657	214	214	—	657	—	27
Dacre ..	975	310	305	—	945	—	54
Glassonby ..	314	96	86	—	290	—	25
Gt. Salkeld	360	126	105	—	340	—	18
Greystoke	502	165	160	—	490	—	23
Hesket ..	2103	621	586	—	2030	—	136
Hunsonby ..	360	130	129	—	357	—	23
Hutton ..	294	93	90	—	274	—	22
Kirkoswald	778	243	188	1	571	3	30
Langwathby	564	179	176	—	548	—	21
Lazonby ..	640	205	201	—	620	—	22
Matterdale	572	183	99	—	291	—	22
Mungrisdale	360	95	82	—	293	—	35
Ousby ..	344	115	107	—	323	—	18
Skelton ..	1007	273	267	—	987	—	96
Threlkeld ..	552	161	143	—	474	—	1
Total	11480	3568	3274	3	10525	8	671

Ruckcroft Reservoir.

During the year, work commenced upon the enlargement of the existing storage capacity at Ruckcroft Reservoir, where it will be increased from 50,000 gallons to 250,000 gallons. Work was suspended on this site during the winter months. Operations will commence again at Easter, and it is hoped that the new reservoir will be in operation by the end of September, 1960.

During the year regular sampling of water supplies for Bacteriological examination was carried out. A total of 72 samples were taken, of which 38 were reported as satisfactory and 34 as unsatisfactory.

The fact that nearly 50% of the samples taken were unsatisfactory is somewhat disturbing from the Public Health angle, but until all supplies are subjected to some form of treatment no great improvement can be expected.

Sewerage.

During the year work commenced on the new combined sewerage scheme for High and Low Hesket. The progress made with the work by the Contractors has been very disappointing, and it will not be until late 1960 that these works will be operating.

Progress has also been made in connection with other villages gravely needing proper sewerage schemes. It is hoped that work will commence at Skelton in the near future, and plans are well advanced for new sewers and works at Skirwith, Armathwaite, and a joint scheme for Lazonby and Kirkoswald.

Refuse Collection.

There has been no change in the manner of refuse collection since my last report. A fortnightly collection takes place throughout practically the whole of the area. Refuse dumps are in existence at Culgaith, Lowthian Ghyll (Low Hesket), Coombs Wood (Armathwaite), Ellonby and Threlkeld. A new Karrier Refuse vehicle was bought during the year, and it is manned by a driver and two loaders. Having regard to the very scattered nature of the area, the collection scheme works most satisfactorily, although a certain amount of inconvenience occurs at holiday times, but arrangements have now been made for a duplicate collection to be made by other members of the Council's staff in order that no householder is faced

with a collection of one month's refuse. Refuse tips are regularly inspected and steps taken to eliminate rat infestation. The Council also co-operate with the County Council and Parish Councils in the removal of litter from refuse baskets situated on lay-bys and in villages.

Schools.

Inspections of all schools takes place in connection with the provision of adequate sanitary accommodation, and suitable washing facilities.

Factories Act.

There are 55 factories registered in the area, and all of these are regularly inspected to ensure compliance with the Regulations.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

PART 1 OF THE ACT.

1. Inspections for Purposes of Provisions as to Health (including Inspections made by Public Health Inspectors)

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspect- ions	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	6	12	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is to be enforced by the Local Authority ..	49	59	—	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding Outworkers' Premises	—	—	—	—
TOTALS ..	55	71	—	—

2. Cases in which Defects were Found.

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	to H.M. Inspector	by H.M. Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness (S.1) ..	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2) ..	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable Temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate Ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective Drainage of Floors (S.6) ..	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	1	1	—	1	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	1	1	—	1	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other Offences against the Act (not including Offences relating to Outwork) ..	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS ..	2	2	—	2	—

Under Part 8 of the Act, Section 110 and 111 there was only one registered Out-worker who is engaged in making wearing apparel. There were no Notices served or any Prosecutions.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

Regular inspections are made to all food premises in the area, and advice and instructions given to all handlers of food so that a proper standard of hygiene is maintained, and that the provision of the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955, are observed. I am pleased to report that all shop-keepers concerned co-operate most willingly with this department in all such matters.

Among various items of foodstuffs condemned as unfit for human consumption were the following:—

27 lbs. Home Cured Bacon	13 tins Large Evaporated Milk
2 tins Cooked Ham	11 tins Small Evaporated Milk
1 tin Ricory	14 tins Minced Beef Loaf
28 tins Nescafe	5 tins Chopped Ham
21 tins Cocoa	9 tins Red Salmon
16 tins Peaches	1 tin Ox Tongue
6 tins Fruit Salad	12 tins Pork and Tongue
11 tins Pineapple Pieces	4 tins Aust. Lance Tongue
22 tins Pears	12 tins Tomato Soup
13 tins Pine Cubits	8 tins Vegetable Soup
17 tins Mandarins	10 tins Chicken Soup
5 tins Rice Pudding	12 tins Beans in Tomato
35 tins M/fat Peas	30 lbs. Steakpiece
10 lbs. Sirloin	

Slaughterhouses.

In the Penrith Rural Area there are six licensed slaughterhouses, four of which are in regular use, one being used intermittently, and the other not now used at all. The slaughterhouses are in the occupation of local butchers, and scattered throughout the area. The kill at these places is entirely for local consumption, the meat killed being of the very highest quality. There is no regular Sunday slaughtering in the area, and an attempt is made to inspect the majority of the carcasses.

During the year the following animals passed through the slaughterhouses, inspection of carcasses involving a total of 243 visits as under:—

Particulars	Cattle except Cows	Cows	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Calves	Horses
Number killed	364	76	1630	420	—	Nil
All Diseases other than T.B.						
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	10	1	—	Nil
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	47	32	87	1	—	Nil
Percentage of the number killed affected with disease other than Tuberculosis..	13	42	5	1	—	Nil
Tuberculosis						
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	—	Nil
Carcasses of which some part or organ was affected ..	—	—	—	—	—	Nil
Percentage of the number killed affected with T.B.	—	—	—	—	—	Nil
Cysticercus bovis	—	—	—	—	—	Nil

Disinfection and Disinfestation.

Following upon the notification of infectious diseases, terminal disinfection is carried out where required.

It has not been necessary to deal with any filthy or verminous houses during the year.

Ice Cream.

There is only one producer of ice cream in the area. His premises and equipment are regularly inspected, and samples of his products taken.

Various prepacked proprietary brands of ice cream are sold in the area, and regular samples are taken with satisfactory results.

SANITARY INSPECTIONS OF THE AREA.

Summary of Inspections Made.

Workshops	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	72
Petrol Stores	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	71
Carbide Stores	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Works in progress	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	256
New Buildings	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	273
General Inspections	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	327
Inspections re complaints received				..	..	..	..	84
Inspections under Housing Acts	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	304
Inspections of Schools	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	26
Slaughterhouses	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	243

Works Carried Out.

Premises cleansed	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	nil
Roofs repaired	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	27
New Spouting fixed	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	18
Air drains fixed	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Floor relaid, etc.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	42
Walls repaired	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	31
Scullery sinks trapped	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12
Water closets constructed	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	36
Sewers and Drains extended	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	104
New Septic Tanks built	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	39
Water Supplies carried to houses	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	14
New Baths fixed	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	53
New Houses completed	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	16
Houses altered or repaired	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	64
New Windows fixed	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	27
New Ceilings put up or repaired	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	16
New Sinks fitted to houses	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	34
Obstructed Drains cleansed	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	17
Drains tested	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	136

Yours faithfully,

J. A. SEDGWICK,

Surveyor and Public Health Inspector.

I am indebted to Mr. E. A. Burne, Architect and Housing Officer, for the following report on housing matters.

To the Medical Officer of Health.

Sir,

I submit the following short report on housing matters for the year 1959:—

The Council during the year have restricted their Housing Programme due to increased loan charges. A Contract was signed however for 3 houses at Lazonby and these houses are under construction.

The Contract entered into with Messrs. John Kitchen for 15 houses at Town Cross, Threlkeld, has now been completed except for the construction of the Estate road, which is in the course of preparation. The total number of Council houses now occupied in the Rural District up to the end of 1959 is as follows:—

Newton Reigny ..	4	Pallet Hill	2
Ivegill	4	Catterlen	8
Dockray	2	Skirwith	8
Langwathby	18	Glassonby	4
Lazonby	23	Renwick	4
Blencarn	4	Aldby	2
Culgaith	22	Low Plains	4
Hunsonby	19	Armathwaite	8
Newbiggin	16	Mellguards	2
Stainton	22	Skelton	6
Low Hesket	12	Aikbank	4
Calthwaite	11	Melmerby	6
Edenhall	4	Threlkeld	39
Greystoke	22	Little Salkeld	16
Great Salkeld	4	Gamblesby	4
Howes	2	Kirkland	2
Ousby	6	Kirkoswald	28
Salkeld Dykes	4	Thiefside	4
Blencowe	4	Clickhem	4
Plumpton	15	Southwaite	2
Dacre	4	Hutton End	2
Penruddock	2	Lazonby (Eden Square) ..	7
Hutton End	2	Wordsley House,	
Sowerby Row	2	Kirkoswald (flats) ..	2
Ainstable	8		
Low Braithwaite ..	2		
		Total	406

Building under private enterprise has shown a slight decrease during the year, suitable sites being more difficult to obtain. A total of 13 houses were completed up to the end of the year and there was 9 under construction, bringing the total completed post war houses to 129.

Housing (Financial Provisions) Act, 1958.

Only one application was received under this Act which applies to the housing of agricultural workers and whereby the applicant is entitled to a grant of £10 p.a. for 40 years. The scheme helps to relieve the housing situation in isolated areas.

Housing (Financial Provisions) Act, 1958.

DISCRETIONARY IMPROVEMENT GRANTS.

Under this Act the Council can make a grant of 50% up to a maximum of £400 towards the cost of improving dwelling houses. The number of applications received was 23, of which 2 were subsequently withdrawn. All houses were inspected and technical advice given on the proposed improvements.

Since the Act came into force a total of 211 applications involving improvements to 250 dwellings have been dealt with by the Council, 19 of which were either disapproved or cancelled, and at the end of the year 165 schemes had been satisfactorily completed, providing 197 Grade 1 houses.

House Purchase and Housing Act, 1959.

STANDARD IMPROVEMENT GRANTS.

This is a new Act which came into force during the year whereby owners and owner-occupiers can do certain works without the necessity of bringing the property up to the standard required under the Discretionary Improvement Grant. The Council must, providing a house is structurally sound and will give satisfactory accommodation for at least 15 years, make the following grants amounting to 50% of the actual cost of the work with a maximum as follows:—

Bath	£25
Wash-hand Basin	£5
Hot Water Supply	£75
W.C.	£40
Food Store	£10

Thus a total of £155 can be paid to any applicant whose property lacks these 5 amenities. Under this Act 21 applications have been received.

Numerous enquiries have been received for both Discretionary and Standard grants and properties inspected, and in most cases applicants have gone forward for the grant.

Yours faithfully.

E. A. BURNE,

Architect and Housing Officer.

